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tribunal of the Mark was concerned, the action of the judiciary tended to put obstacles in the way of the removal of the peasants from their holdings.

The author gives a careful account of the various classes as they were to be found in the seventeenth century,—an account in which we can discern many curiously minute resemblances to the varieties of copyhold tenure in England; and he endeavors to show that the *Lassiten*, who make their first appearance about the beginning of the eighteenth century, were the descendants of peasants settled on lands left vacant during the Thirty Years' War. All this is very well worth reading, even by students of economic history outside of Germany, and it displays much acuteness and original research. But it is to the earlier portion of the book that I have thought it well to draw especial attention as of more far-reaching importance. It is interesting to observe that German scholars are now beginning to limit the range of the "original freeman," who once so completely monopolized the historical field. Even when they leave him his freedom, they are inclined to deprive him of the greater part of that social independence which freedom was once thought to imply.

W. J. ASHLEY.

Manuel de Statistique Pratique. Par VICTOR TURQUAND, Chef du Bureau de la Statistique Générale de France. Paris, Berger-Levrault et Cie., 1891.—8vo, viii, 564 pp.

The government of France publishes a great variety of statistics on a great variety of subjects. The persons immediately charged with the duty of collecting or compiling the original returns are generally the petty administrative officers of the commune or the municipality, such as the secretary of the mayor, the assistant at the prefecture or sub-prefecture, the clerks in the hospitals, the custom-house officers, *etc.* Even the quinquennial census is decentralized in this way. The returns are then sent to Paris and edited either by the general bureau of statistics attached to the ministry of commerce or by the particular department concerned, *e.g.* the agricultural statistics by the ministry of agriculture. The primary object of this book was to serve as a manual of instruction to the numerous local officers who collect the returns, so that the schedules might be filled out intelligently and with some degree of uniformity. The object is certainly praiseworthy, for intelligence in the enumerator or compiler is the foundation of all trustworthy statistics. The superior council of statistics in France is disposed to go still further in this direction and has recently (as we learn from M. Turquand's preface) emitted the following demands or desiderata:

(a) Que le ministère de l'intérieur veuille bien envoyer aux préfets des instructions, dont le projet pourrait être préparé par le conseil supérieur de statistique, et qui porteraient sur les précautions à prendre pour la rédaction correcte des statistiques demandées à leurs bureaux.

(b) Que tous ces travaux de statistique soient centralisés, sinon entre les mains d'un seul employé, du moins dans un même service.

(c) Que les employés chargés de ces travaux viennent à tour de rôle passer quelque temps à Paris pour y suivre les cours et s'initier à la pratique du métier dans les bureaux de statistique qui seront disposés à les recevoir pendant ce stage.

(d) Que l'attention du ministère de l'instruction publique soit appelée sur l'utilité d'introduire des notions de statistique dans le programme de l'enseignement donné aux élèves des écoles normales primaires d'instituteurs, pour les préparer aux travaux de statistique qu'ils seront plus tard chargés d'exécuter en qualité de secrétaires de mairie.

This programme may seem to be a little idealistic, especially in this country, where the superintendent of the census does not consider the ordinary civil service examination to be necessary in choosing his clerks. But it certainly emphasizes rightly the fact that what we want now of statistics is not a greater volume of publication, but more intelligent care in the collection.

M. Turquand's book is much more than a manual of instruction to French civil servants. In fact, any communal officer who mastered it would possess more scientific knowledge of statistics than most of the chiefs of statistical bureaus in this country. It is a complete *exposé* of the whole statistical service of France, historical, descriptive and philosophical. To the foreign student making use of French statistics it will prove invaluable. He will find here a compact but accurate history of statistics in France, both national and municipal. He will find a description of the actual organization of the statistical service and of the innumerable publications of the different departments. He will find the schedules in actual use and the instructions for filling them out. In short, the student is put into a position to know exactly where to look for any special statistics, and is given the necessary data to judge, so far as an outsider can judge, of the meaning and the trustworthiness of the figures. Similarly thorough manuals for other important countries would be valuable additions to the library of the student of statistics. It should also be added that M. Turquand devotes the last one hundred and fifty pages of his book to an exceedingly lucid and interesting *résumé* of the statistics of France, illustrated with numerous maps and diagrams and accompanied with international comparisons.